(c) While no study has been considered necessary so far, the combat skills of officers in the Army, both Short Service and Regular Commissioned are as per desired standards.

Review of extra pension to gallantry awardees

885. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) does the Government provide any extra pension or allowance to the gallantry award winning officers and soldiers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) how often are such extra pension/allowances to the gallantry awardees reviewed;

(c) has Government taken cognizance of the plight of a retired Lt. Colonel as reported in the media;

(d) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken on the representations made by the said Lt. Colonel in past and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what urgent steps are being taken to address his grievances in particular and those of other awardees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The Government provides monthly monetary allowances to the gallantry award winning officers and soldiers. The existing rates of the allowances sanctioned for these gallantry awards are as under:—

1.	Param Vir Chakra		Rs. 1500/-
2.	Ashoka Chakra	—	Rs. 1400/-
3.	Maha Vir Chakra		Rs. 1200/-
4.	Kirti Chakra	—	Rs. 1050/-
5.	Vir Chakra		Rs. 850/-
6.	Shaurya Chakra	—	Rs. 750/-
7.	Sena/Nao Sena/Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)	—	Rs. 250A

Note: Each Bar to the award will carry the same amount of monetary allowance as admissible to the original award.

The rates of these allowances are revised from time to time. The last such revision was made with effect from 1.2.1999. Monetary allowances were attached with Sena Medal/Nao Sena Medal/Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) for the first time with effect from 1.2.1999.

The disposal of the representations/grievances of the gallantry awardees and their families is a continuous process within the Ministry of Defence by coordinating with the concerned authorities for timely redressal of their grievances.

Sharing of classified information through Orkut

886. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of young army officers are sharing information about their military training, posting, cell-phone numbers and even operational details through "Orkut" a social networking site operated by Google;

(b) whether Government is aware that exchange of such vital and classified information over such open on-line forums is treated as a serious breach of security;

(c) whether Government is also aware that foreign intelligence agencies scout for such vital information on the Internet; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No report pertaining to sharing of classified defence information on social networking sites involving defence service personnel has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Defence personnel are periodically sensitized to nuances of military security and the implication of sharing classified information with strangers or on social network. They are also aware of the implications of such sharing under Indian Official Secret Act, 1923.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To tackle such activities, following actions are initiated on regular basis:—

(i) Sensitisation of defence and civilian personnel at all levels, with special attention paid to new entrants in training institutes.

(ii) Regular policy guidelines are issued for compliance.

(iii) Checks/audits are undertaken by in-house teams to locate any breach.

(iv) Directives have been issued to take stern action against defaulters.

Armaments destroyed in accidents

887. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of value and tonnage of the armaments destroyed in the accidents in the ordnance depots and factories since 1998;

(b) whether Government also ascertained the causes of the accidents in the convoys carrying ordnance for Operation Parakram;

(c) what have been the causes of such accidents and whether the possibility of any sabotage has also been examined;

(d) what steps have been taken to expeditiously replenish the ordnance supply to the combat troops; and

(e) what steps have been taken to insulate the ordnance factories and depots from such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The details of value and tonnage of the armament destroyed in the accidents at various Ammunition depots of the Army since 1998 are as under: